



PATENT
Serial No: 09/500,639
Docket No: 12953-100115

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Chung-Ming Lu et al.

Serial No: 09/500,639

Filed: February 9, 2000

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR WEB
FORWARDING

Examiner: Jonathan Schlaifer

Art Unit: 2178

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR 41.37

Mail Stop Appeal Brief- Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

ATTENTION: Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

Sir:

Applicants submit this Appeal Brief in the above-referenced application. A Notice of Appeal was filed on August 19, 2005, and an extension for time under 37 CFR 1.136 is hereby authorized to be charged to deposit account 11-0600.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

Network Solutions, Inc. is the real party in interest for all issues related to this application by virtue of assignments filed with the USPTO and recorded at reel 010560, frame 0424.

RELATED APPEALS OR INTERFERENCES

There are no other appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings known to Appellants, Appellants' legal representative, or assignee which may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

This application contains claims 1-25. Claims 2, 3, 13, 14 and 25 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4-12 and 15-25 stand finally rejected as anticipated or obvious over prior art and are the subject of this appeal.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments after the April 19, 2005 Final Rejection were filed in this application.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Independent claim 1 recites a method for forwarding a web address to another web address (e.g., web address is used as basis for search for forwarding URL corresponding to the web address, page 9, lines 6-19) in a network (network 100, Fig. 1, page 5, lines 16-17, Fig. 1) comprising the steps, performed by a processor (host 120 and 126 inherently include processors, page 11, ll. 3-6), of receiving a request destined to a first web address (http request includes web address, page 15, lines 4-6) including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI) (the web address "www.joe-domain.com/section3/user1.html" includes domain name "joe-domain.com" and the URI "/section3/user1.html", page 15, lines 10-14, Fig. 5, step 502); determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name (forwarding URL "www.geocities.com/members/joe" corresponds to the domain name, page 16, lines 9-11, Fig. 5, step 504), the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator (URI "/section3/user1.html" is not used in the forwarding URL "www.geocities.com/members/joe", page 16, lines 7-11); combining the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier; (forwarding URL "www.geocities.com/members/joe" is combined with URI "/section3/user1.html" to form the second web address "www.geocities.com/members/joe /section3/user1.html", URI not changed, page 16, lines 11-13), and, redirecting the request to the second web address (page 16, lines 14-16, Fig. 5, step 514).

Independent claim 12 recites a computer-readable medium (executable program files located on host 120 and host 126, page 8, lines 15-19, Fig. 1) containing instructions for performing a method for forwarding a web address to another web address (receive a domain

name and redirect the user to a location corresponding to an entry, page 8, lines 15-20, web address is used as basis for search for forwarding URL corresponding to the web address, page 9, lines 6-19), the method comprising receiving a request destined to a first web address (http request includes web address, page 15, lines 4-6) including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI), (the web address "www.joe-domain.com/section3/user1.html" includes domain name "joe-domain.com" and the URI "/section3/user1.html", page 15, lines 10-14, Fig. 5, step 502); determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name (forwarding URL "www.geocities.com/members/joe" corresponds to the domain name, page 16, lines 9-11, Fig. 5, step 504), the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator (URI "/section3/user1.html" is not used in the forwarding URL "www.geocities.com/members/joe", page 16, lines 7-11); combining the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier; (forwarding URL "www.geocities.com/members/joe" is combined with URI "/section3/user1.html" to form the second web address "www.geocities.com/members/joe /section3/user1.html", URI not changed, page 16, lines 11-13) and redirecting the request to the second web address (page 16, lines 14-16, Fig. 5, step 514).

Independent claim 23 recites an apparatus for forwarding a web address to another web address, comprising: a memory having program instructions (host 120 and 126 inherently include a memory for storing the executable program files, page 8, lines 15-16); and a processor (host 120 and 126 inherently include processors, page 11, ll. 3-6) responsive to the program instructions to receive a request destined to a first web address (http request includes web address, page 15, lines 4-6) including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI), (the web address "www.joe-domain.com/section3/user1.html" includes domain name "joe-domain.com" and the URI "/section3/user1.html", page 15, lines 10-14, Fig. 5, step 502) determine a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name (forwarding URL "www.geocities.com/members/joe" corresponds to the domain name, page 16, lines 9-11, Fig. 5, step 504), the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator (URI "/section3/user1.html" is not used in the forwarding URL "www.geocities.com/members/joe", page 16, lines 7-11), combine the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier (forwarding URL

"www.geocities.com/members/joe" is combined with URI "/section3/user1.html" to form the second web address "www.geocities.com/members/joe /section3/user1.html", URI not changed, page 16, lines 11-13), and redirect the request to the second web address (page 16, lines 14-16, Fig. 5, step 514).

Independent claim 24 recites a system for forwarding a web address to another web address (e.g., web address is used as basis for search for forwarding URL corresponding to the web address, page 9, lines 6-19), comprising: a host computer (host computers 120, 126, page 8, lines 9-19, Fig. 1) operable to receive a request (http request includes web address, page 15, lines 4-6) destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI) (the web address "www.joe-domain.com/section3/user1.html" includes domain name "joe-domain.com" and the URI "/section3/user1.html", page 15, lines 10-14, Fig. 5, step 502), search a data file for a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name (data files 118, 124, are searched for forwarding URL, page 8, lines 9-19), the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator (URI "/section3/user1.html" is not used in the forwarding URL "www.geocities.com/members/joe", page 16, lines 7-11), combine the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier, and redirect the request to the second web address (forwarding URL "www.geocities.com/members/joe" is combined with URI "/section3/user1.html" to form the second web address "www.geocities.com/members/joe /section3/user1.html", URI not changed, page 16, lines 11-13); a customer database storing forwarding information (customer database 112 stores forwarding information, page 7, lines 1-18, Fig. 1); and a data generator operable to extract forwarding information from the customer database and store the forwarding information in the data file (data generator 114 extracts forwarding information and transfers the information to the data file (page 7, lines 13-19, Fig. 1).

GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED

The Final Rejection rejects claims 1, 9-10, 12, 20-21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Kirsch (USP 5,751,956), rejects claim 4 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Kirsch in view of Horstmann (USP 5,995,099), rejects claims 5 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Kirsch in view

of Horstmann and Ogle (USP 6,052,736), rejects claim 6-8, 17-19 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Kirsch in view of Mueller (USP 6,128,279) and further in view of Fogg (USP 6,321,242), and rejects claim 11 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Kirsch in view of Fogg.

ARGUMENT

The Final Rejection fails to demonstrate that Kirsch anticipates any of claims 1, 9-10, 20-21 and 23, because Kirsch does not disclose “determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name”. The Final Rejection fails to render obvious any of claims 4-8, 11, 15-19, 22 and 24 for the same reasons, and because the secondary references do not remedy these deficiencies. Details of these arguments are presented below.

A. Claims 1, 9-10, 12, 20-21 and 23 Are Not Anticipated by Kirsch

Independent claims 1 and 12 recite, *inter alia*, receiving a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI). Independent claim 23 recites the same functionality. The Final Rejection refers to Kirsch’s disclosure at col. 4, lines 11-12 as disclosing this element, and specifically mentions the redirect directive. The Final Rejection states that “the user’s input determines a new URL via the redirect command.” The redirect directive appears at col. 4, line 20 as:

Redirect/dir1 http://newserver.widget.com/dir1

The Final Rejection fails to indicate what it considers to be the domain name and what it considers to be the URI, because the user’s input is not shown. As explained in the specification, a domain name is in the form of “xyz.com” (see page 10, lines 14-15) and in the specific example in the specification “joe-domain.com” (see page 15, lines 10-14), and includes a top level domain, such as “.com”. The specific example in the specification of the URI is “/section3/user1.html” (page 15, lines 10-14). Thus, the Final Rejection has failed to point to any disclosure of the claimed domain name and uniform resource identifier (URI) in a first web address.

Claims 1 and 12 further recite, *inter alia*, determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, the uniform resource

identifier (URI) not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator. Independent claim 23 recites the same functionality. The Final Rejection refers to Kirsch at col. 4, lines 15-20 and Fig. 4, but does not point out what it considers to be the forwarding URL. Even more importantly, the Final Rejection fails to show a forwarding URL that corresponds to the domain name, as required by the claims. In Kirsch, the forwarding URL is determined by the URI "/dir". Specifically, Kirsch states:

"When a Version 1.5 or latter HTTP server receives a URL reference to a local directory (/dir1) that is specified as above for redirection, a redirect message is returned to the client browser including a new location in the form of an URL (http://newserver.widget.com/dir1)". See col. 4, lines 21-25.

Thus, in Kirsch, any address input by a user that includes the local directory /dir1, will be redirected to the address in the redirect directive. In Hirsch, any domain name that may be included in the received address is irrelevant to the forwarding URL. Compare this to Appellant's specific example of the received web address "www.joe-domain.com/section3/user1.html" being used to determine a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name "joe-domain.com".¹ Thus, Hirsch does not disclose "determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name" as required by the claims, because in Hirsch, the forwarding URL does not correspond to the domain name, but instead corresponds to the URI /dir1. Accordingly, claims 1, 12 and 23, and dependent claims 9-10 and 20-21, are not anticipated by Hirsch.

B. Claims 4-8, 11, 15-19, 22 and 24 Are Not Obvious

Independent claim 24 recites a host computer operable to receive a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI), search a data file for a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource

¹ The specific examples from Appellant's specification are described to further explain the claimed invention, and Appellants understand that features from the specification are not to be read into the claims. The example given is only one possible example that is within the scope of the claims.

locator, features that correspond to the features argued above regarding claims 1, 12 and 23. As explained above, Hirsch does not disclose "determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name". Likewise, Hirsch does not disclose "search a data file for a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name" as recited in claim 23 for the same reasons. Further, the secondary references Muller and Fogg do not remedy these deficiencies, so that even if combined, the applied references do not render claim 24 obvious.

Regarding claims 4-8, 11, 15-19, 22, these claims all depend from claims 1 or 12, which, as explained above, are not anticipated by Hirsch. Because the secondary Horstmann, Ogle, Muller and Fogg reference do not remedy the above noted deficiencies of Hirsch, these claims would not have been obvious.

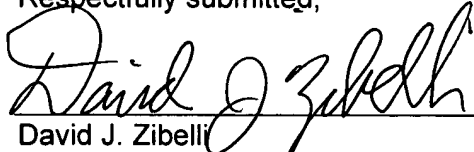
CONCLUSION

Appellant respectfully requests reversal of the rejections of claims 1, 4-12 and 15-25. These claims are allowable over the cited art.

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A method for forwarding a web address to another web address in a network comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:

receiving a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI);

determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator;

combining the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier; and

redirecting the request to the second web address.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. The method of claim 1, said determining step further comprising:

determining whether a search for forwarding information can be completed; and

indicating that there has been a system error based on the determination that the search cannot be completed.

5. The method of claim 4, said determining step further comprising:

directing the request to a default web address based on a determination that a search could be completed and no forwarding URL that corresponds to the domain name is found.

6. The method of claim 1, said determining step further comprising:

searching a data file for the forwarding URL.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the data file is periodically updated by a data generator, the data generator performing the steps of:

extracting forwarding information from a customer database; and

storing the forwarding information in the data file.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the customer database includes a table that associates a domain name with a forwarding URL.

9. The method of claim 1, said redirecting step further comprising:

sending to a user a string that includes the forwarding URL.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the string is sent to the user using a hypertext transfer protocol (http) location command.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the request is supplied by a user.

12. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for forwarding a web address to another web address, the method comprising:

receiving a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI);

determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator;

combining the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier; and

redirecting the request to the second web address.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, said determining step further comprising:

determining whether a search for forwarding information can be completed; and

indicating that there has been a system error based on the determination that the search cannot be completed.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, said determining step further comprising:

directing the request to a default web address based on a determination that a search could be completed and no forwarding URL that corresponds to the domain name is found.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, said determining step further comprising:

searching a data file for the forwarding URL.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the data file is periodically updated by a data generator, the data generator performing the steps of:

extracting forwarding information from a customer database; and

storing the forwarding information in the data file.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the customer database includes a table that associates a domain name with a forwarding URL.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, said redirecting step further comprising:

sending to a user a string that includes the forwarding URL.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the string is sent to the user using a hypertext transfer protocol (http) location command.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the request is supplied by a user.

23. An apparatus for forwarding a web address to another web address, comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

a processor responsive to the program instructions to receive a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI), determine a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator, combine the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier, and redirect the request to the second web address.

24. A system for forwarding a web address to another web address, comprising:

a host computer operable to receive a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI), search a data file for a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator, combine the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier, and redirect the request to the second web address;

a customer database storing forwarding information; and

a data generator operable to extract forwarding information from the customer database and store the forwarding information in the data file.

25. (Canceled)

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

No evidence under 37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132 was submitted in this application.

RELATED APPEALS APPENDIX

There are no other appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings known to Appellants, appellants' legal representative, or assignee which may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.